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### **Plumas-Sierra Counties Pesticide Regulatory Program 2007/2008 Performance Evaluation Report**

**California Environmental Protection Agency  
Department of Pesticide Regulation  
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Sacramento, California 95814**

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## **Performance Evaluation of the Plumas-Sierra County Agricultural Commissioner Pesticide Use Enforcement Program**

This report provides a performance evaluation of Plumas-Sierra County Agricultural Commissioner's (CAC's) pesticide use enforcement (PUE) program for the fiscal year 2007-2008. The assessment evaluates the performance of goals identified in the CAC's enforcement work plan as well as the program's adherence to Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) standards as described in the Pesticide Use Enforcement Standards Compendium.

### **I. Summary Report of Core Program Elements**

#### **A) Restricted Materials Permitting:**

The restricted materials permitting program element was found to meet DPR standards and work plan goals.

#### **B) Compliance Monitoring:**

The compliance monitoring program element was found to meet DPR standards and work plan goals.

#### **C) Enforcement Response:**

The enforcement response program element was found to meet DPR standards and work plan goals.

### **Summary Statement:**

Plumas-Sierra CAC's pesticide use program is currently effective.

Since January 1, 2008, Plumas-Sierra has been without an Agricultural Commissioner. The biologist (a licensed Deputy Agricultural Commissioner) has been appointed as an interim Agricultural Commissioner, until a replacement can be hired. Due to the increased workload of the acting Agricultural Commissioner/ biologist, the work plan for the pesticide enforcement program was modified.

On November 24, 2008, Keith Mahan was appointed the new Plumas-Sierra County Agricultural Commissioner.

### **II. Assessment of Core Program Effectiveness and Work Plan Goals**

#### **A) Restricted Materials Permitting:**

##### **1) Permit Issuance – Effective**

The Plumas-Sierra CAC permit issuance procedures and performance were evaluated through observation and interviews of relevant staff and found to conform to DPR standards and expectations. The biologist that issues permits possesses Pesticide Regulations and Investigation and Environmental Monitoring licenses.

The DPR evaluation determined that permits are:

- Issued only to qualified applicants;

- Signed by authorized persons;
- Issued for time periods allowed by law;
- Permit amendments follow approved procedures.

## **2) Site Evaluation – Effective**

The Plumas-Sierra CAC site evaluation procedures were evaluated through record review, and interviews of relevant staff and found to conform to DPR standards and expectations. The CAC issued forty-two agricultural permits and six nonagricultural permits during the subject year.

The permits:

- Contained the necessary information;
- Identified treatment areas and sensitive areas that could be adversely impacted by the permitted uses;
- Identified mitigation measures and included conditions that addressed known hazards.

The CAC staff adequately evaluated permits and determined if the use of feasible alternatives was required. The program reviews all NOI's in a timely manner and adequately monitored agricultural and nonagricultural permits utilizing pre- application site evaluations and use monitoring inspections.

## **B) Compliance Monitoring:**

### **1) Inspections – Effective**

The Plumas-Sierra CAC permit inspection procedures were evaluated through DPR record review and found to conform to DPR standards and expectations. The biologist that possesses Pesticide Regulations and Investigation and Environmental Monitoring licenses perform inspections. Inspections are performed according to the inspection strategy documented in the CAC's enforcement work plan. Inspections are performed according to DPR policies and procedures and inspections reports are complete and comprehensive. Six inspections were conducted with no violations documented.

Inspections performed by the CAC were found to:

- Adequately address label, law and regulatory requirements;
- Include interviews of employers and employees as appropriate.

### **2) Investigations – Effective**

The Plumas-Sierra CAC performed one investigation in 2007/2008. The procedures and performance were evaluated through, record review, and interviews of relevant staff and found to conform to DPR standards and expectations. The CAC investigates all complaints and complete their reports in a timely manner.

Investigations are thorough and complete and submitted on approved forms and in the approved format. The CAC refers and or notifies DPR and other agencies as required. The investigations document violations and the CAC collects evidence according to DPR standards. The investigations adequately provide the information necessary to successfully prosecute violations.

**C) Enforcement Response: - Effective**

The Plumas-Sierra CAC's pesticide use program is currently effective. CAC enforcement response was evaluated through record review, and interviews of relevant staff. Since, there were no violations documented, enforcement response was not implemented for the 2007/2008 year.

**III. Recommended Corrective Actions**

Due the lack of a permanent CAC, the acting interim Commissioner/Biologist was having difficulty meeting basic program needs for the 2008/2009 year. The hiring of the new CAC should alleviate future workload issues.

**IV. Non-Core and Desirable Activities**

- Plumas-Sierra CAC's provides an annual continuing education (CE) training presentation every year for companies, growers, and dealers.
- Plumas-Sierra CAC's is scheduled to have the new AgGIS III installed in 2009.